

Leap of Faith Learning

Believing in Every Child's Potential

/ Surrender

A Message from the
Executive Director

Who has Control Over Your Life?

Surrender is not something that we humans recognize as a positive outcome. It usually means we have been defeated and we are now a prisoner of war. It literally means giving up your life to the control or influence of another. The Founders of our country believed that natural rights are inherent in all people by virtue of their being human, given to us by God and that certain rights are unalienable, meaning they cannot be surrendered to government under any circumstances.

That sounds like really good news for all those who live in this country. Unfortunately, those same freedoms give us the right to willingly surrender the control of our lives to the prevailing ideology like post modernism, secularism, Marxism or even our own self-centered desires.

The Apostle Paul wrote to his protégé, Timothy:

"¹ But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. ² For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, ⁴ treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God..."

2 Timothy 3:1-4

Through these freedoms, we surrender control of our lives to other people who

don't have our interests at heart or worse yet, our own desires, making us prisoners of sin. God tells us that only through complete surrender to His will and the denial of our own can we truly break the chains of our prison.

"²³ And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Me." Luke 9:23

Charles Hummel said it best in *The Tyranny of the Urgent*:

"Freedom does not come by trying to produce it. Freedom in the spiritual realm comes by an absolute surrender to Jesus and living dependent upon Him. Trying to gain freedom in your own strength and resource only tightens the chains that hold you."

Even for followers of Jesus, surrender can be quite difficult because it is a daily choice. At the heart of this struggle is human pride. Since the beginning of time, we have been telling God, we know better. We find it so difficult to heed God's warning:

"¹⁸ Pride comes before destruction and an arrogant spirit before the fall." Proverbs 16:18

Pursuing our own selfish desires or feelings in the moment will never end well.

I'd like to say that after you surrender your life and accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior, this struggle ends...but it doesn't. With all the noise bombarding us from every corner of society, it is easy to

find ourselves drifting down a destructive path. But God is always there with open arms, patiently waiting to put us back on His path that leads to an indescribable joy and everlasting life. He will never leave us or forsake us!

It's About Developing a Relationship!

After talking to a young friend recently, I realized the current generations don't really know what it means to truly be a follower of Christ. They've allowed their definition of a Christian to be defined by the internet or politicians. That is so sad to me since becoming a born-again Christian is not about joining a religion but rather about developing a relationship with the Creator of the universe. If you're exhausted from following your own plans for your life, perhaps you're ready to turn and surrender and ask God to show you the plans He created for you before the foundation of the world.

"²⁸ Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." Matthew 11:28-29

If you feel God nudging you, please reach out to me or a member of our LOFL team as we'd love to share the good news with you and walk together with you on this amazing journey.

Ron



What's New

Hello to all!!

It is finally springtime and Leap of Faith Learning is as busy as the bees!

Let's see what's new.

Our Campus

Our LOFL campus is taking beautiful shape. In the fall, wonderful Verde Serve Volunteers prepared the inside of our new building to get ready for our fall programs and this spring, they returned to continue working on the exterior. Our Tutoring Center and Multipurpose Room (MPR) building got a new coat of paint. It looks great! The volunteers also spent time working on the grounds and making our campus shine. Thank you Verde Serve Volunteers.



Acts 2 Fellowship

In late winter and early spring, LOFL hosted two Act 2 Fellowship dinners. At our January Act 2 dinner, we had a local youth pastor share a message with our families, staff, and volunteers and Jesse and I am the beautiful music. More recently in April, our very own Ron shared a heartfelt message to attendees about the need to continually surrender our lives to God. Andrea Light, along with her mother Teresa and daughter Kaelynn provided some uplifting worship music. Everyone had a lovely time. Thank you all!



Church Training

LOFL presented training programs at two local Churches on "Protecting Our Children" and "The Transing of Our Kids". There was a great turnout and the attendees were very receptive and responsive to the trainings. We also presented a special needs awareness program to the leadership team of another local church. Thank you LOFL trainers!



Parent Workshops

We know how much our parents appreciate opportunities to learn and grow. We will be sending a survey out to determine interest in our parent trainings and availability. We recognize that more individualized learning takes place when groups are smaller and able to collaborate and ask questions, so we are looking at the possibility of going to a small group format for future trainings. Keep an eye out on your emails!

Work Study

After a short break, we are looking at offering a "Work" program over the summer. This will be geared toward teenagers (14+) who are able to work on the inside and outside of our buildings. Students will learn important jobs skills while earning a paycheck. We recently sent out a survey to parents who have teenagers and we are already getting responses! Yah!

Building the Team

Sadly, we said goodbye to a couple of valued members of our team, Paulette & Natalie, who will be sorely missed. Please join us in thanking them for all they did for our children. Fortunately, God opened the door and provided the funding to create two full-time positions. Laura, our incredible tutor, has stepped up to take on more responsibilities to include our work study program and some critical administrative responsibilities. He also brought forward a wonderful godly woman to fill our full-time coordinator position. Please welcome Hollie Lockard to our LOFL family. She has a great background in teaching and ministry. For the first time in a while, LOFL is fully staffed which enables us to continue to take on new students and their families every month. We are so blessed!

Tia



Spring Picnic

Despite some drizzle,
over 80 of our friends enjoyed
an afternoon of food,
fun & fellowship!



Thank You to All Who Minister to Our Families

Hero Donors:

- William & Joanne Blatt
- Ray & Terri Finch
- Brian & Kristy Herman
- Precision Structural Concrete
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- Miller Valley Baptist Church
- "More of Him, Less of me" John 3:30 (anonymous)
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- Doug & Lori Orr

- Richard Orr
- Matthew Oxendale
- Joy Elizabeth Prats (In Memory Of)
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- Brian & Sarah Vierra
- Margaret Voorheis
- Paul & Mariko Wallace
- Bill & Debbie Winterburn
- David & Cindy Witt
- The Yarger Family
- Karen Yarrish

Join the spring campaign...

to **transform the life of a child with special needs** and their entire family. Every month we receive new applications from families in need of services and support to unlock their child's God-given potential. Please prayerfully consider becoming part of the LOFL family.



We view Leap of Faith Learning as merely a platform by which our wonderful supporters come along side and serve these families and their children who are truly God's workmanship. With our youngest child being 2 years old, we know we may be serving some families for 20 years until the student reaches the age of 22. While every dollar helps us assure our parents they are not alone, we are recognizing our regular, ongoing,

Champion & Hero-level donors through the Wall of Hope. We want to put your name on our Wall of Hope to recognize this ongoing support our children need. Monthly donors giving \$40 or more for individuals or \$100 or more for organizations and Hero/Champion level onetime donors will have their names (or the names of loved ones) permanently inscribed on our Wall of Hope.

Would you consider giving the gift of hope? Any size

donation gets us one step closer to helping another child unlock their God-given potential.

If you'd like to support families who have children with special needs, please prayerfully consider a monthly recurring gift or send a one-time donation by check to:

Leap of Faith Learning
P.O. Box 3898

Cottonwood, AZ 86326

Donate online using the QR code or by going to:

www.leapoffaithlearning.org

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